



Missing out on Rewards

By : Shazia Nazlee

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By : Shazia Nazlee

Designed by: Abdul Hameed

Illustrated by: Issah Soliman Corpuz



DARUSSALAM
GLOBAL LEADER IN ISLAMIC BOOKS

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DARUSSALAM
GLOBAL LEADER IN ISLAMIC BOOKS

HEAD OFFICE

P.O. Box: 22743, Riyadh 11416 K.S.A. Tel: 00966-1-4033962/4043432 Fax: 4021659
E-mail: darussalam@awalnet.net.sa, riyyadh@dar-us-salam.com Website: www.dar-us-salam.com

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U.A.E

Darussalam, Sharjah U.A.E

Tel: 00971-6-5632623 Fax: 5632624

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PAKISTAN

Darussalam, 36 B Lower Mall, Lahore

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E-mail: houston@dar-us-salam.com

Darussalam, New York 486 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn

New York-11217, Tel: 001-718-625 5925

Fax: 718-625 1511

E-mail: darussalamny@hotmail.com

U.K

Darussalam International Publications Ltd.

Leyton Business Centre

Unit-17, Etloe Road, Leyton, London, E10 7BT

Tel: 0044 20 8539 4885 Fax: 0044 20 8539 4889

Website: www.darussalam.com

Email: info@darussalam.com

Darussalam International Publications Limited

Regents Park Mosque, 146 Park Road

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Fax: 0044 20 8539 4889

AUSTRALIA

Darussalam: 153, Haldon St, Lakemba (Sydney)
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Tel: 0061-2-97407188 Fax: 0061-2-97407199

Mobile: 0061-414580813 Res: 0061-2-97580190

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MALAYSIA

Darussalam International Publication Ltd.

No.109A, Jalan SS 21/1A, Damansara Utama,
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Tel: 00603 7710 9750 Fax: 7710 0749

E-mail: darussalm@streamyx.com

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Tel: 0033-01- 43 38 19 56/ 44 83

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Sannah got onto the school bus to go home after a long and tiring day at school. As usual, the bus passes the boys' primary school which Sannah's only brother Tansar attends. Tansar was two years younger than Sannah. Despite the differences in age, they get on well and spend a lot of time together, even though Tansar's new kitten, Felix, takes up a lot of his time.

As the school bus drove past the school, Sannah could see her brother, as usual, standing with his books in his hand at the school gate.

"Computer room" Sannah said to herself, as she waved at her brother and gave him a slight nod from the bus window. Her brother smiled and gave her a wave too. Whenever Tansar decided to stay behind to go to the computer room, he would wait at the



school gates to let Sannah know that he was staying behind. Tansar loved computers. He had one at home but he always liked using the one in school as it had the Internet and a brand new scanner and it was a lot faster than his computer at home.

"It's good to be home," said Sannah as she placed her bag on the bedroom floor and jumped onto her bed. "Another busy day!" she sighed to herself. She got her books out of her bag and put them on her desk. "Science, mathematics and I/T," she said aloud. "Boring!" She began to do her homework. It was not much, but as she did not enjoy the subjects, she wanted to get her work done and over with.

After a long hour of maths work, just as she reached her final question, there was a knock on her bedroom door. "Assalamu 'Alaikum," said her younger brother as he walked into her room.

"Wa alaikumus salaam," replied Sannah. "Oh no, I cannot help you with your maths homework!" she said as she saw him with his math's textbook in one hand, calculator in the other and a pencil between his lips. "You know I don't like maths. Anyway when did you get back?" she inquired.

"About five minutes ago! Oh please help me, please Miss Pretty please!" he pleaded. "It won't take you long to explain. You're the best sister I have!," Tansar said, trying to persuade her.

"I'm the only sister you have so I have to be the best! OK, right then, here goes, just try to concentrate and listen!," she remarked.

Sannah did explain well and fast but Tansar was always too slow to understand. "No, no! You must times the width by the length to get the area of a square or a rectangle," she tried to explain to her brother who always had a problem when it came to the calculation

of an area.

"How do they expect me to do that? Look, the numbers are so long and big!" said Tansar with a confused look.

Both Sannah and Tansar looked up as they heard a shuffling noise. It was Felix. "That kitten better not get on my bed! I don't want hair everywhere!" said Sannah, as she spotted the kitten peeping from behind the door.

"Please concentrate on my maths, Felix is not troubling anyone!" said Tansar, as he gave his kitten a friendly wave.

"OK, back to maths. That's why the scientists invented such a thing as a calculator, so you can work out long sums!" said Sannah, waving the calculator in the air.



Waleed. "So anyway, who do you think should lead the prayer?," asked Waleed.

"But what about football?," said Tansar, going into deep thought about his football tournament. "And what about all our projects and..."

"Yes, but we do have to pray too, remember that should be the most important thing besides you can still play football after school!," said Haris. "And prayer only takes a few minutes it's not as though it takes us all day to do," he pointed out to his friend.

"Yes, but I won't get a chance to go to the computer room at lunch-time, so I'll have to go after school, which means no more football," protested Tansar.

The boys continued to argue all the way to school about who would lead the prayer, whilst Tansar thought about his football and the computer room.

In the morning assembly, Mr. Fahd, the head teacher made the announcement about the time and place for the prayers. There would be two lunch breaks and two Jamaa'ah's would be taking place.

Haris and Waleed were still arguing about who would lead the prayer.

"Taariq who do you think should lead the prayer? Haris or myself?" asked Waleed.

"I don't know," said Taariq who was finding it difficult to choose between his two friends.

"Why don't one of you lead the first Jamaa'ah and the other lead the



brothers and sisters. Can someone tell me why we stand foot to foot and shoulder to shoulder when we pray?," asked Mr. Fahd.

"I know! so the shaytaan does not come in between us and distract us!," shouted Adil.

"Yes and there is also another reason," continued Mr. Fahd. "It is also to show that no one person is better than another and that everyone is equal and that we should be close to one another. Praying in Jamaa'ah can be a way of meeting new people and if one person who usually prays next to you is absent, you begin to wonder where that person is. Why didn't he come for prayer? It teaches you to love one another and the most important thing is that it gives us an opportunity to gain lots and lots of reward. Remember that the reward is twenty-seven times more when we pray in Jamaah'ah compared to when we pray alone. I just want to finish off by telling you how happy I am to know that my students want to gain more reward from Allah," said Mr. Fahd, giving the children a smile.

It was going home time. Ilyas was waiting for Usamah in the corridor. He spotted Tansar walking towards his locker. He gave Tansar a wave.

"Hey stranger, Assalamu 'Alaikum, and where have you been?" said Tansar as he walked towards his friend.

"Wa alaikumus salaam and more like where have you been?" replied Ilyas.

"So what's new?," asked Tansar catching up with his friend whom he had not seen in days.

"Well, Haris is helping Isma'eel and Sohail with their homework



"You know I was thinking. As I'm still young..."

"Don't start that again," exclaimed Sannah.

"No, I was just trying to say that as I am still young, I should do as many good deeds as I can because when I am old I will not be able to do a lot of things!" said Tansar with a smile.

Everyone should remember that we are given many chances and opportunities to gain lots of reward while we are still alive. Praying in Jamaa'ah is more rewarding than praying alone. Going to Jumuaah instead of praying your normal Dhuhr prayer is more rewarding. There are many other ways in which Allah has given us the chance to gain rewards, such as the blessed month of Ramadhaan, where rewards are given manifold for every good deed. We should do our utmost and take advantage of these opportunities and do as much as we can to please Allah and gain as much reward as we possibly can now. Why wait for tomorrow?

We should try and always remember Haris' words:



We should try and always remember Haris' words:

"I might not be able to gain all this reward again, so I should take advantage whilst I still have the opportunity."



Questions

1. Did Tansar and Sannah attend the same school?
2. Which two activities did Tansar love most?
3. What were Tansar's two friends, Waleed and Haris arguing about?
4. Who is older? Tansar or Sannah?
5. How many Jamaa'ah's were being held at the school?
6. Why did Mr. Fahd want to address the children?
7. Explain why Tansar preferred to pray alone instead of in Jamaa'ah.
8. What was Tansar's kitten called and what happened to him?
9. What is the formula for calculating the area of a rectangle?
10. Write down three important lessons you have learnt from this story.
 - (i)
 - (ii)
 - (iii)